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a composition comprising at least one purified recombinant HCV single or specific oligomeric recombinant envelope proteins selected from the group consisting of E1 protein [and/or] E2 protein [and/or] and E1/E2 complex; and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

Sub 23) 53. (Amended) A vaccine composition [obtained by immunizing a mammal with] comprising an effective amount of a composition comprising at least one of the following E1 and/or E2 peptides:

E1-31 (SEQ ID NO:56) spanning amino acids 181 to 200 of the Core/E1 V1 region,

E1-33 (SEQ ID NO:57) spanning amino acids 193 to 212 of the E1 region,

E1-35 (SEQ ID NO:58) spanning amino acids 205 to 224 of the E1 V2 region (epitope

B),

E1-35A (SEQ ID NO:59) spanning amino acids 208 to 227 of the E1 V2 region (epitope

B),

1bE1 (SEQ ID NO:53) spanning amino acids 192 to 228 of E1 regions V1, C1, and V2

regions (containing epitope B),

E1-51 (SEQ ID NO:66) spanning amino acids 301 to 320 of the E1 region,

E1-53 (SEQ ID NO:67) spanning amino acids 313 to 332 of the E1 C4 region (epitope

A),

E1-55 (SEQ ID NO:68) spanning amino acids 325 to 344 of the E1 region,

Env 67 or E2-67 (SEQ ID NO:72) spanning amino acid positions 397 to 418 of the E2

region (epitope A),

Env 69 or E2-69 (SEQ ID NO:73) spanning amino acid positions 409 to 428 of the E2 region (epitope A),

Env 23 or E2-23 (SEQ ID NO:86) spanning positions 583 to 602 of the E2 region (epitope E),

Env 25 or E2-25 (SEQ ID NO:87) spanning positions 595 to 614 of the E2 region (epitope E),

Env 27 or E2-27 (SEQ ID NO:88) spanning positions 607 to 626 of the E2 region (epitope E),

Env 178 or E2-178 (SEQ ID NO:83) spanning positions 547 to 586 of the E2 region (epitope D), and

Env 13B or E2-13B (SEQ ID NO:82) spanning positions 523 to 542 of the E2 region (epitope C).

56. (Amended) The method of claim [53] 55 wherein said mammal is a human.-u

## REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 49-56 are pending. Claims 49-51, 53, 55 and 56 are under active consideration. Claims 52 and 54 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 49 has been amended above to be consistent in the recitation of E1 protein, E2 protein and E1/E2 complex with amendments required by this Examiner in the co-pending Application No. 08/928,017.

The applicants acknowledge the Examiner's requirement for the submission of proposed drawing corrections in response to the outstanding Office Action of July 2, 1999 (Paper No. 6).